

and personal administration. As the President/CEO of bd Systems, Inc., a female-minority owned small aerospace and information technologies firm, she had dedicated herself to developing quality products and customer service. For these efforts, she has been recognized by the National Association of Women Business Owners 1998 NAWBO Businesswoman of the Year Award, the 1997 Ronald H. Brown Award for Courage, the 1996 AT&T Entrepreneur of the Year Award, and the 1996 El Camino College Foundation Roundtable Award.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Mrs. Howard has an unwavering commitment to the community. She is a member of the National Association of Women Business Owners, The Trusteeship, the Southern California Chapter of the International Women's Forum, the Association of Black Women Entrepreneurs, and Emily's List. She supports inner city youth programs through in-kind donations, monetary contributions and bd technical assistance. bd's internship program for disadvantaged students provides mentoring and work experience while they pursue academic studies.

Medical research became important to her when her nephew, Anthony Nickols, was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. At the celebration on June 13, 1998, Mrs. Howard invites others to join her in support of the researchers and Anthony's physician so they might continue to search for cures to give hope to future generations.

OPPOSE THE "GEPHARDT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT" PROTECT THE FIRST AMENDMENT

### HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 19, 1998*

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I have submitted to the House Committee on Rules the "Gephardt Constitutional Amendment" to amend the First Amendment for consideration by the House during debate on campaign reform.

I have agreed to offer the amendment, not in the hope that it will pass, but in the hope that the House will bury this dangerous idea forever.

The "Gephardt Constitutional Amendment," would permit Congress and the states to enact laws regulating federal campaign expenditures and contributions. H.J. Res. 47 would challenge all pre-existing First Amendment jurisprudence and would give to Congress and the states unprecedented, sweeping and undefined authority to restrict speech protected by the First Amendment since 1791.

Because it is vague and over-board, H.J. Res. 47 would give Congress a virtual "blank check" to enact any legislation that may abridge a vast array of free speech and free association rights that we now enjoy.

I request that the Amendment be printed in the RECORD pursuant to the Rules Committee request prior to consideration by the full House.

#### JOINT RESOLUTION

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES TO LIMIT CAMPAIGN SPENDING

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein),* That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years after the date of its submission for ratification:

#### "Article—1

"Section 1. To promote the fair and effective functioning of the democratic process, Congress, with respect to elections for Federal office, and States, for all other elections, including initiatives and referenda, may adopt reasonable regulations of funds expended, including contributions, to influence the outcome of elections, provided that such regulations do not impair the right of the public to a full and free discussion of all issues and do not prevent any candidate for elected office from amassing the resources necessary for effective advocacy.

"Section 2. Such governments may reasonably defined which expenditures are deemed to be for the purpose of influencing elections, so long as such definition does not interfere with the right of the people fully to debate issues.

"Section 3. No regulation adopted under this authority may regulate the content of any expression or communication."

The Gephardt Amendment is nothing more than a direct attack on our First Amendment freedoms. It is my hope that the House considers this amendment, and buries it forever